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Austria

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SECRETARY GENERAL TRYGVE LIE IN VIENNA WITH U.N. PARTY. U.N. Secretary General Trygve Lie, accompanied by his wife and daughter, arrived in Vienna on July 3. Among the official members of his party were Pier de Meullemeester, protocol chief of the U.N.; Prof. A.H. Feller, director general of the U.N. Legal Department; and Tor Gjesdal, director general of the U.N. Information Department.

On July 4 Secretary Lie was received by President Koerner, who said in his words of greeting "that he regarded the United Nations as the organization in which mankind was placing such high hopes today. For it is precisely there that the power of the great nations should be limited and subordinated to the rights of the small nations and that the peace of the world be placed under the common protection of all segments of humanity."

After calling upon Chancellor Figl, Vice Chancellor Schaerf and Foreign Minister Gruber, the U.N. Secretary General addressed a joint session of the Austrian Parliament, where all the assembled members of the Nationalrat (Lower Chamber), the Bundesrat (Upper Chamber), the Vienna Diet and the Diet of Lower Austria greeted him with a stormy ovation in which representatives of the People's Party, the Socialist Party and the League of Independents enthusiastically joined. After having been formally welcomed and introduced by Nationalrat President Kunschak, Trygve Lie told the legislators:

"The exceedingly friendly reception I have received since my arrival on Austrian soil has given me renewed evidence of the close ties between your country and the United Nations. In past months I had the pleasure and privilege of greeting Chancellor Figl and Vice Chancellor Schaerf at the Headquarters of the United Nations. Although Austria has still not succeeded in gaining admission to the United Nations, she has participated in a number of conferences, commissions and committees. I need only recall the contribution

Austria made to the expanded program of technical assistance in 1951.

"But in addition, Austria is also a respected and esteemed member of the large family of specialized agencies, all of which — with the exception of only one, I believe — she has joined. Ever since the United Nations were established, your country has shown great interest in our work. Through the Austrian Observer, both in New York and Geneva, we have

been in constant and very satisfactory contact with the Austrian Government.

"I should like to thank you, the entire Austrian nation, for the fact that in spite of all disappointments you have never lost faith in the United Nations. In your political activities, both at home and abroad, you have always acted as if you were already a member of the United Nations. My friend, Dr. Gruber, uttered some very fitting words about this a few years ago. In a speech which he delivered on March 28, 1948, he stated that the small nation whose existence depended on the operation of a true international community could make an important contribution to it, even while not a member of it. The contribution consisted

in keeping its own house in order and causing for the rest of the world as little trouble as possible. Austria has done both of these things in exemplary fashion."

At a press conference, Trygve Lie declared that the veto of any of the Big Five could have the result of blocking the admission of Austria to the United Nations. He added, however, that various attempts were being made to induce the General Assembly to revise the present procedure governing the admission of new members. Asked whether he thought that it would be possible to solve the Trieste problem through the mediation of a third country, the U.N. Secretary General said that the question primarily concerned Italy and Yugoslavia, but that these countries could of course turn to a mediator. He added that it would not be absolutely necessary for

Austrian Offices in New York to Move to 31 East 69th Street, New York 21, N.Y.

The following Austrian offices in New York, listed below with their NEW telephone numbers, will be closed between July 25 and August 1:

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The INFORMATION DEPARTMENT of the
AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL LEhigh 5-4120
The AUSTRIAN TRADE DELEGATE LEhigh 5-3335

They will open to the public on August 1 at new premises at:

31 East 69th Street,
New York 21, N.Y.

The offices of the Information Department will be on the 4th, those of the Trade Delegate on the 5th floor of the building. The

AUSTRIAN STATE TOURIST DPT. MUrray Hill 8-0355
will remain at its present address at 48 East 48th Street,
New York 17, N.Y.

the mediating state to be a member of the United Nations.

Secretary Lie postponed his departure from Vienna, which had originally been scheduled for July 4, in order to speak to a meeting of the Austrian League for the United Nations and to participate in a reception sponsored by that organization.

U.S. JOURNALISTS RECEIVED BY CHANCELLOR FIGL AND UNDER SECRETARY GRAF. Dr. Leopold Figl, the Chancellor of Austria, recently received a group of 15 U.S. editors, representing farm organizations, magazines and radio stations. The Chancellor took the occasion to reply to the visiting newsmen's numerous questions, which dealt predominantly with Austrian economic and farm policy problems. Also present at the reception of the group was Franz Thoma, the Minister of Agriculture.

The party of journalists and experts was likewise received in the Lower Austria Farm League House by Ferdinand Graf, the Austrian Under-Secretary of State and director of the Austrian Farm League. In a statement to the visitors the Secretary observed: "The fact that, out of a total of over 450,000 Austrian farmers, only some 400 gave their vote to the Communist Party is ample testimony that the farm population of Austria constitutes the surest guarantee against any Bolshevik aggression."

VICE CHANCELLOR SCHAERF APPEALS TO BIG POWERS.

In a recent address before the Lower Austria provincial convention of the "Arbeitsbauernbund" (Farm-Labor League), Dr. Adolf Schaerf, the Austrian Vice Chancellor, made the following statement: "When we draw up the balance between foreign aid to Austria since 1945 and the burden of occupation during the same period, we are forced to the sad conclusion that the losses resulting from the occupation are all but equal to the benefits from foreign aid. We now find ourselves in a period of diminishing foreign aid, with the prospect that it may dry up altogether. Under the burdens of occupation Austria's economy has not been able to recover rapidly enough to stand on her own feet. It is therefore not hard to understand why Austria now cries out to the Great Powers and to the world: 'The continued occupation of Austria is not to be laid to the Austrians, but to your failure to achieve unity. Do not make us bear the cost of your quarrel! You are morally bound to continue to aid us!'"

"The discussions we have held on our economic differences have always ended in compromises which did not saddle any particular party or class with an unbearable burden, and which were manifestly fair compromises. We must never forget that Austria is not free, and that the rallying of the entire people around the struggle for political freedom must come before everything. Our success in this struggle depends upon the determination of the Austrian people to remain united. For us to be united in our efforts to preserve democracy and in our battle to achieve political freedom is the highest aim of our policy today. During the coming year this policy will be a determining factor in the elections for the Nationalrat (Parliament) and a number of the provincial legislatures."

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FOREIGN MINISTER GRUBER ON SOLUTION OF TRIESTE PROBLEM.

In a recent interview regarding his state visit to Yugoslavia, Dr. Karl Gruber, the Austrian Foreign Minister, made the following statement regarding the Trieste question: "We feel that this problem is one which primarily concerns Italy and Yugoslavia, and should be solved bilaterally. Our interest is an economic one only and is based on our wishing to see the Port of Trieste thrive. As is well known, Austrian imports and exports represent over two thirds of the total volume of goods shipped through Trieste. We therefore have an urgent interest in seeing the Trieste problem solved as soon as possible, and we hope that such a solution will at the same time create peaceful and stable conditions. By the same token it is not in Austria's interest to declare herself on the side of either of the disputants. And though we do not feel called upon to offer mediation proposals, we nevertheless stand ever ready, in the interest of the improvement of our own economic situation, to lend all possible support and encouragement to any move in the direction of a peaceful settlement."

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS YUGOSLAVIA READY TO BACK AUSTRIA'S ADMISSION TO U.N.

Dr. Karl Gruber, Austria's Foreign Minister, in a recent interview granted to the "Neue Wiener Zeitung," made the following statement: "In my recent state visit to Yugoslavia the government of that country spontaneously informed me of its interest in seeing Austria obtain complete independence and national sovereignty and indicated, moreover, its readiness to support us in the event this matter comes before the United Nations. Should we be forced to this step, then Yugoslavia's vote in the U.N. will carry just as much weight as that of any other country which declares itself ready to support Austria's case."

"Personal contacts between Vienna and the member states of the U.N. must be strengthened, and interest in our case awakened. In this connection it is clear that in any vote at the U.N. on the subject, the votes of the countries which are not affiliated with either of the two major blocs will be of particular importance. When these, moreover, are the votes of our immediate neighbors, they will carry still greater weight. I should like to confirm in this regard that Yugoslavia has shown a consistently sympathetic attitude toward our struggle for admission to the U.N., which we have now sought since 1947."

VICE CHANCELLOR SCHAERF ON THE INTEGRATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS IN AUSTRIA.

On Sunday, June 29, Vice Chancellor Adolf Schaerf addressed a meeting of ethnic German (Volksdeutsche) refugees in Austria. He reminded his listeners that for many decades Austria had always opened her doors to immigrants, first from Southern Germany and later from non-German areas of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. There will be no such immigration for decades to come, he said, but we can be thankful that the immigration of ethnic Germans will compensate for this. "I am aware of the disappointments," Dr. Schaerf said, "which many of you have also experienced here. But please realize that you have come to a poor country, whose people have had to make sacrifices

for more than seven years because of the occupation. But conditions are also improving for the ethnic Germans. The Austrian Parliament is now drawing up laws which will prepare the way for the complete integration of these people into the social body of the country."

After Dr. Schaerf's speech, the meeting was addressed by Mr. Bermann, representative of the U.N. Refugee Commissioner in Austria. He said that although he had been in Austria for quite some time, he had had little opportunity to take any more than supporting action because the Austrian Government itself was doing everything it could to help the refugees. Now that the ethnic Germans in Austria had been granted equality of employment, Parliament was considering granting the intellectuals among them equal status as well.

SOLUTION TO LEGAL STATUS OF REFUGEES SOUGHT.

At the meeting of the Austrian Cabinet held on July 1, Oskar Helmer, Minister of the Interior, reported that at the beginning of 1950 an international agreement with respect to the legal status of refugees had been drafted in the U.N. Committee for Economic and Social Problems. This draft was forwarded not only to the member states of the United Nations but also to other countries which have an interest in the refugee problem, including Austria. The Austrian Government decided in favor of lending its support to the acceptance and ratification of the agreement. Inasmuch as the agreement contains some provisions which would affect existing laws, it will require the approval of the Austrian Parliament. The Cabinet consequently decided, on the motion of the Minister of the Interior, to submit this "convention regarding the legal status of refugees" to the approval of the law-making bodies.

PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAILS ACHESON VISIT. In a recent statement in the "Neue Wiener Tageszeitung", Julius Raab, president of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the People's Party, declared: "For the first time in the history of the Austrian Republic, or for that matter, in Austria's entire history, a United States Foreign Minister has set foot in this country. This is a gesture the significance of which will be understood and appreciated round the world, since Secretary Acheson is the Foreign Minister of a country whose policy has ever been inseparably associated with the concept of freedom, whereas freedom and sovereignty have now for many years been denied to our country.

"The highlight of Secretary Acheson's trip has been his visit to two European cities located on the front line of the Cold War. First, Berlin, the city where the differences between the four major Allies of World War II have been sharper than anywhere else. And now Vienna, which, in contrast, is the only place where the four Allied Powers are still sitting down at the same table together. This is why we feel that Vienna is the ideal spot for the Allies to come to an understanding, and Austria a country which particularly deserves to enjoy the fruits of such an understanding. Freedom and sovereignty may be denied to Austria on paper, but in spirit and outlook we are a free people; and it is as such that we greet Dean Acheson as guest of the Austrian Republic and as representative of our friend, the United States."

COMMUNIST HOLD BROKEN IN AUSTRIAN UNION ELECTIONS. The results of the shop steward elections which recently took place in Donawitz are a particular source of satisfaction in that, for the first time since 1947 -- thus, in the last five years -- the workers at this plant succeeded in voting out the Communist majority and putting an end to the reign of terror for which this group was responsible, and which was the more intolerable in view of the fact that the largest industrial enterprise in Austria was thereby Communist-dominated. Out of the 4795 employees a total of 4538 valid votes were cast. Of these, the Socialists received 2011 votes and 10 mandates (as compared to 1774 votes and 9 mandates in March, 1952, and 1945 votes and 8 mandates in 1950); the Communists received 1983 votes and 9 mandates (as compared to 2076 votes and 11 mandates in March, 1952, and 2734 votes and 12 mandates in 1950); and the Austrian People's Party received 544 votes and 2 mandates (as compared with 319 votes and one mandate in March, 1952, and 483 votes and 3 mandates in 1950). Since 1950, therefore, the Socialists have won two mandates and the Communists have lost three. The elections in March of this year were previously declared invalid.

AUSTRIAN CABINET PROTESTS WOMAN'S KIDNAPPING BY SOVIETS.

At its meeting of July 8, the Austrian cabinet heard a report on the previous day's kidnapping in the early hours of morning, of a woman, who was at that time still unidentified, from the Heldenplatz in Vienna. Inasmuch as it had been positively established that she was carried off to the Soviet-occupied part of the Hofburg, it was decided by the cabinet to address a protest to the Soviet High Commissioner, and a further protest to the Allied Council.

The same evening Vienna police authorities announced that effects left at the scene of the kidnapping by the victim identified her as Maria Schindler, 56, whose address is 11-A Brauenerstrasse, and that she was the housekeeper of Maj. Gustav Grimm, retired, who was arrested by one of the Occupying Powers on March 30th. Authoritative sources state that Maj. Grimm was well known in the Austrian resistance movement, and that on the date mentioned he was seized near Vienna. No subsequent explanation was ever given, and he has never been heard of since.

SOVIETS APPROVE 700 TRANSPORT CERTIFICATES. At the meeting of the Austrian Cabinet held on July 1, Chancellor Figl stated in his report that the Soviet authorities during the last few days had granted some 700 transport certificates, approval of which had previously been held up. Only 27 transport certificates still remain unapproved, and according to the responsible officials these are due to be reviewed during the next few days. These "transport certificates" are authorizations granted by the Soviet occupation authorities for the transport of merchandise and raw materials from the Soviet-occupied zone to the western provinces of Austria.

SOVIETS CLAIM REPATRIATION COSTS OF OVER 200 MILLION SCHILLINGS. As reported in the "Presse" several weeks ago, a delegation from the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, headed by Councillor Berdach, was sent to Moscow

to negotiate regarding the cost of repatriating Austrian prisoners of war. Inasmuch as the demands set up by the Soviets were quite steep, and in addition to this, no agreement could be reached regarding the form of payment, the details of the conversations are only now being made known.

According to what is reported, Soviet authorities are demanding a remuneration of something over two hundred million schillings for the repatriation of some 50,000 Austrian prisoners of war. The matter of repatriating former civilians who are prisoners in the USSR, however, represents a special ticklish problem in itself.

It is believed that concessions may be expected from the Soviets with regard to the manner of payment, particularly since the Soviet occupation authorities have recently on a number of occasions shown understanding for Austrian interests, as for example in the matter of Danube navigation.

While in Moscow Councillor Berdach also endeavored to obtain concessions on behalf of the Austrians who are still held in the Soviet Union, and if possible the repatriation of at least some of them. These efforts were without avail. At the last session of the Allied Council the Soviet representative took the position that, as he phrased it, "all Austrian prisoners still left in the Soviet Union are war criminals." Against this background, therefore, it must be regarded as an achievement if some of these prisoners are transferred to Austria to serve out their sentences.

THE TASKS OF AUSTRIA'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

In an article in Vienna's newspaper "Neue Wiener Tageszeitung", Dr. Franz Korinek, Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Commerce, clarified some of the many misconceptions about Austria's system of Chambers of Commerce. He drew attention to the fact that, according to Austria's Chamber of Commerce Law, the duty of the chambers is to "undertake all tasks based on mutual economic interest, to preserve the interests of its members with regard to labor laws, to further measures to maintain lower prices, to suggest and give expert advice concerning the needs of Austrian economic enterprises and concerning all facts with regard to labor conditions, labor protection, social insurance, the labor market, housing needs, food supplies and general education. Further tasks of Austria's Chamber of Commerce are to participate in economic administration, in the establishment of institutions and institutes for the furtherance of Austria's economy, and, last but not least, in the rendering of expert opinion concerning pending bills involving economic interests which are within the competence of the Chambers of Commerce. Dr. Korinek stressed that one of the most essential tasks of Austria's Chambers of Commerce must therefore be their advisory capacity to Austria's parliament. Dealing with the accusation that Austria's Chambers of Commerce had allegedly participated in the establishment of price cartels, Dr. Korinek stated that that was not the case, and "in spite of all rumors nobody will ever be able to substantiate such unfounded statements." Concerning Austria's "Wirtschaftskommission" (Economic Commission) the Secretary General of the Federal Chamber of Commerce pointed out that its establishment was essential in these extraordinary times in which it was imperative to find ways and means to

bring together top representatives of Austria's business, agriculture and labor, in order to iron out mutual problems. Dr. Korinek emphasized that far from being objectionable, the Economic Commission was an example of truly democratic action. Another example of valuable participation in Austria's business life was the recent action by Austria's Chamber of Commerce to initiate voluntary price reductions, Dr. Korinek said.

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH RALLY IN VIENNA.

Between September 7 and 14, 1952, an "International Catholic Youth Week" will be held in Vienna. Some 5,000 participants from abroad, mainly from Italy, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany, as well as some 40,000 young Austrians between the ages of 16 and 25 are expected to attend. Groups will be formed to discuss topical problems concerning family life, the school, town and country, the State and the Church, as well as the question of European unity. The youth rally is intended as a prelude to National Catholics Day in Austria. (September 11 - 15).

AUSTRIA'S TOURIST INDUSTRY TO RECEIVE 30 MILLION SCHILLINGS.

The Austrian tourist industry will be granted credits in the amount of 30,000,000 schillings during the current year, the funds being made available from the ERP Counterpart Fund. Eleven million schillings are expected to be used for the construction of a "Kurhotel" (Spa Hotel) in Salzburg. Other plans call for the erection of a hotel on the Bielerhoehe in the Vorarlberg, some 7,300 feet above sea level; when completed it will be the highest situated in the country. Five and a half million schillings have been earmarked for its construction. Another project, for which a further five million schillings are needed, is the construction of an aerial cableway from St. Christoph on the Arlberg to the Galzig (7,210 ft.). The balance of the credits is to be used for modernizing tourist establishments, and various similar purposes. In view of the great importance of tourism to the Austrian economy, large ERP allocations have been made to the industry. In Upper Austria alone, tourist establishments have so far received 22,000,000 schillings in ERP credits for the modernization of existing facilities and the construction of new ones. Of this amount, five million have been used to develop Goisern, a sulfur springs health resort. Considerable amounts have been allocated to the "Grand Hotel" in St. Wolfgang, as well as to a number of other establishments in Upper Austria which were damaged by the war.

AUSTRIAN BANK RATE INCREASED FROM FIVE TO SIX PER CENT. At its meeting of July 2, the Board of Directors of the Austrian National Bank decided to raise from 5% to 6% as of July 3, 1952, the interest rate for the rediscount of drafts (with the exception of reconstruction drafts), warrants and securities. A similar increase was adopted for the interest rate on loans.

This new increase in the bank rate was unavoidable in order to underpin the recently adopted currency stabilization measures limiting commercial credits and rediscounts at the

Austrian National Bank, to encourage active reduction of un-economic stocks and to adapt the general interest structure to changed conditions. Since this increase in the bank rate will presumably be reflected in a higher interest rate on deposits with credit institutes, it will also contribute to stimulate still further the upward trend in savings.

MINE SAFETY CONFERENCE HELD IN AUSTRIA. An international conference on mine safety and other mining problems organized by the Association of Mining, Steel and Iron Industries was held at the Leoben Mining College in the province of Styria, Austria, from June 23 to 27. More than one hundred foreign mining experts, principally from Belgium, Britain, France, Germany and Italy, participated. At the close of the conference, visits were arranged to Austria's major mining and industrial centers.

PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF WOODEN HOUSES. The productive capacity of Austria's prefabricated housing industry has been raised during recent years to some 15,000 to 20,000 units per year. The majority of the firms have both sawmills and wood-working facilities, which makes them less susceptible to the effects of business slumps.

Following a return to traditional building methods in Central Europe during the last few years, the main markets for Austrian wooden houses have now shifted overseas. Thus almost 10,000 wooden prefabs were delivered to Israel during the past 12 months, and it is anticipated that even larger orders will soon be placed following the recent signing of the credit agreement with Israel.

INCREASED EXPORTS OF AUSTRIAN GLASS AND CHINA TO U.S. The export of Austrian glass and china to this country has increased considerably during recent years. The value of Austrian glass and glassware sold in the United States has gone up from \$35,000 in 1949 to \$94,000 in 1950 and to \$301,000 in 1951. These exports consisted primarily of hollow glassware for household purposes, mirrors, parts of chandeliers, lighting equipment and Christmas tree decorations. Austrian tableware made of crystal glass has been especially popular in this country, as is also Austrian glass imitation jewelry, 5,200,000 dollars' worth of which were exported here in 1950 (\$6,600,000 worth in 1951). Products of the state-owned "Augarten" plant in Vienna have likewise found a highly receptive market in the U.S., where more than \$100,000 worth of Augarten chinaware was sold in 1951.

AUSTRIA EXTENDS PHONOGRAPH RECORD PRODUCTION. Austrian recording companies recently went into the production of long-playing records. At the present time, about 1,000,000 phonograph records are being manufactured in Austria. Although the necessary raw materials are still being imported from the United States, domestic production of these materials is expected to reach a level sufficient to meet all of Austria's requirements in the near future.

AUSTRIAN BUS WINS PRIZE IN MONTREUX COMPETITION. At a recent competition in Montreux, at which prizes were awarded for the most beautiful and comfortable motor vehicles, Austria's "Graef and Stift" bus won the third prize among a

group of twenty-four non-Swiss competitors from the different countries. The Austrian bus received only a few points less than a British bus which was awarded the second prize. The first prize went to a Swedish bus.

1,500,000 RADIO LISTENERS IN AUSTRIA. The number of radio listeners in Austria, which in 1945 totaled 750,000, reached the 1,500,000 mark in May of this year. This means that 22% of the country's total population of seven million and 67% of its 2,200,000 homes own radio sets. Austria thus ranks high among the countries of Europe with regard to the number of set owners in proportion to the population.

The highest percentage (72.6%) of the families with radio sets is in the Vorarlberg, the country's westernmost province; then comes Vienna with 71.5%. In 1951, the Austrian state collected 126,000,000 schillings in radio-set registration fees.

STARTING AUGUST FIRST
OUR NEW ADDRESS WILL BE
31 East 69th Street, New York 21, N. Y.

AUSTRIA SIGNS TRADE AGREEMENT WITH PAKISTAN.

A trade agreement between Austria and Pakistan was recently signed in Vienna. Under its terms, Austria will primarily receive jute and cotton, in exchange for pig iron, semi-finished aluminum products, aluminum alloys, structural steel and various kinds of special steel.

AUSTRIA CONCLUDES TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENT WITH ICELAND.

Negotiations for the conclusion of a one-year trade and payments agreement between Iceland and Austria were completed in Vienna at the beginning of June. The Icelandic delegation accepted one list of commodities for export to Iceland in return for fish, and another list of goods to be paid for in hard currency. The agreement further provides for the importation of 4,500 tons of fish meal from Iceland and the exportation of some 10,000 tons of Austrian nitrogenous fertilizer. Neither party to the agreement has drawn up any quota lists.

AUSTRIA AND BULGARIA AGREE ON NEW COMMODITY QUOTAS.

The meetings of the Austrian-Bulgarian trade commission ended in mid-June, when agreement was reached on new commodity quotas for the period until June 30, 1953. For the first time since the war, Bulgaria has granted Austria quotas for wheat and rye. In addition, Bulgarian export quotas for cattle corn, tobacco, oil seed, rice and eggs have been considerably expanded. Bulgaria is also making efforts to sell other farm products on the Austrian market. In return, Austria will supply Bulgaria with iron and steel products. Higher quotas were approved for the export of Austrian finished goods, including machinery for various branches of industry, low-voltage and high-voltage power equipment, products from the optical and paper industries, motor vehicles, tractors, engines, bicycles, and tools of every description, as well as iron and metal products.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

NEW AUSTRIAN UNIVERSITY RECTORS ELECTED. In the recently held university elections in Austria, the following professors were elected rectors for the 1952-53 academic year:

University of Vienna: Dr. Wilhelm Czermak, professor of African Studies and Egyptology. Born in 1889, Prof. Czermak has been a member of the university's faculty for 33 years. He is also a member of the board of the International Institute for African Languages and Cultures in London.

Vienna Institute of Technology: Dr. Ernst Melan, professor of Building Statistics and Structural Engineering. Born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, in 1890, Prof. Melan joined the Institute as a lecturer in 1922.

University of Innsbruck: Dr. Burghardt Breitner, professor of Surgery and director of the Innsbruck University Surgical Clinic. Dr. Breitner, who was born in Mattsee, Salzburg, in 1884, became a lecturer at the University of Vienna in 1924 and a professor at Innsbruck in 1932.

CONFERENCE OF AUSTRIAN NEUROLOGISTS AND PSYCHIATRISTS. A scientific conference of the Association of Austrian Neurologists and Psychiatrists was held in Kreutznstein-am-Mondsee on June 4 and 5. Among the foreign physicians who attended the conference were the well-known child psychiatrist Prof. Villinger from Marburg-an-der-Lahn, Prof. Mueller-Muensinger from Switzerland and Prof. Reitev from Copenhagen.

AUSTRIAN ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON DEVELOPS REVOLUTIONARY METHOD FOR TREATMENT OF PAGET'S DISEASE. At a recent meeting of the Austrian Orthopedic Society, the well-known Viennese orthopedic surgeon, Prof. Stracker, reported that he had developed a revolutionary surgical technique for the treatment of osteitis deformans (Paget's disease of the bone). The method consists in laying the "bowed" tibia bare, chiseling the outer, convex half, breaking the bone, and then re-arranging it in straight position. The remaining bone fragment is then supported by a sterile, stainless-steel splint about 2 cm. in width and 20 to 25 cm. long, which is fastened to the bone with wire loops. The loss of blood during such an operation is very slight. Dr. Stracker said that the oldest patient he had treated was eighty and almost unable to walk. As a result of his technique the patient regained the full use of his legs. Dr. Stracker also succeeded in correcting congenital dislocation of the hip-joint in children, by introducing ivory pegs into the affected area.

EXHIBITION OF FACSIMILES FROM THE ALBERTINA OPENED IN LISBON. Early in June an exhibition of facsimiles of some of the art treasures in the Albertina Museum in Vienna was opened in Lisbon at the Portuguese State Secretariat of Information. Reports from Lisbon indicate that the exhibition is proving to be extremely popular, with public

attendance exceeding all expectations. Most of Portugal's press devoted considerable space to a discussion of the cultural significance of the Albertina, and described the idea of the Lisbon exhibition as an original and desirable one which would promote international appreciation of Austria's art treasures.

AMBRAS CASTLE COLLECTIONS REOPENED. The art collections of the Tyrolian castle of Ambras, near Innsbruck, have now been taken over by the Museum of the History of Art, and to celebrate this occasion an exhibit of the castle's treasures was recently opened to the public by Dr. Kolb, the Minister of Education.

In the tastefully arranged displays the mood and atmosphere of the famous old castle's heyday are again brought to life. A noteworthy feature of the special "Chamber of Arts and Wonders", in addition to precious golden goblets and crystal ware, is the castle's "drink book", in which are entered the names of all those who were able to empty the contents of a certain large tankard at once. Then there is the Grotto of Bacchus, where one may see a revolving table, driven by water. As for the renowned painting gallery, there one may find originals by Amberger, Cranach, Saverny and Valckenborch.

With regard to knight armor, even England, noted for its armor, has nothing to rival the twenty complete sets of armor for foot combatants in tournaments, dating from the reign of Archduke Ferdinand in the 16th Century, which are on display in the collections at Ambras Castle.

RELIGIOUS PLAYS IN AUSTRIA. One of the closing events of the recent Vienna Festival Weeks was the performance of T.S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" in front of the Church of the Jesuits in the ancient "Universitaetsplatz" in Vienna. The play was produced by Josef Gielen, director of the Vienna Burgtheater. The success of the performance confirmed that this site in the heart of the Austrian capital is an excellent setting for open-air performances. The play will be revived in the fall on the occasion of National Catholic Day. Christopher Fry's "Sleep of Prisoners" will be given in St. Michael's Church in Vienna at the same time. An interesting premiere of a modern religious play took place in the unfinished church of Pradl-Ost, a working-class district in Innsbruck, Tyrol. A group of amateur actors, including Richard Wegeler, a Vorarlberg producer, presented "Selig die Verfolgten" (Blessed Be The Persecuted), a play dealing with religious persecution in our time in an unnamed country. Its author, Miss Toni van Eyck, is an actress who was formerly with the Vienna Burgtheater. The company will go on tour with this play to Bamberg and six other West German cities this summer.

ANNIVERSARY OF FRIEDERICH FROEBEL. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Friederich Froebel, the great educator who first conceived the idea of the "Kindergarten", the City of Vienna has named its 150th public Kindergarten, which was opened early this month, in his honor.

UNKNOWN WORK BY ALBAN BERG ACQUIRED BY AMERICAN CONDUCTOR. Jasha Horenstein, the American conductor, recently acquired for presentation to the public an as yet unknown composition by the late Alban Berg. The Austrian composer's work is entitled "Ansichtskartengruesse" (Picture Postcard Greetings) and is based on the text of five poems by the Viennese author, Peter Altenberg.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR 1952 AUSTRIAN CATHOLIC DAY. A "Proprium zum Fest der Kreuzerhoehung", especially written for the occasion by Karl Walter, will be presented during the high mass to be read in one of Vienna's largest squares on National Catholics Day on September 14, 1952.

Karl Walter (born in 1892), well-known for his compositions of religious music, was organist for seven years each with the Benedictine Abbey of Seckau, Styria, and St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. For the last 25 years he has been teaching at the Vienna Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Josef Messner, (born in 1893), conductor at the Salzburg Cathedral and professor at the Salzburg "Mozarteum", has written a special festive fanfare for National Catholic Day.

AUSTRIAN NOVELIST REINALTER CELEBRATES 60TH BIRTHDAY. Erwin E. Reinalter, one of Austria's most successful living novelists, celebrated his 60th birthday on June 6, 1952. Born in Istanbul, of Austrian parents, he was for many years a journalist, but later turned to writing novels. His books deal mainly with themes from Tyrolean or Turkish life. His novel "Mirabell", a picture of Salzburg during the Baroque period, has had several printings. His latest novel, "Die Seele erwacht", appeared in 1951.

ILA EGGER-LIENZ AS NOVELIST. Miss Ila Egger-Lienz, daughter of Albin Egger Lienz, the famous Tyrolean landscape painter, has just completed her latest novel entitled "Das Veilchenbeet", which deals with a young girl's fate and has both the tropics and Paris as its background. Miss Egger's latest work of fiction will be published by the Austrian Book Club which also published both her previous books, "Blaetter im Herbst" and "Arabesken".

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PROGRAM FOR COMING SEASON AT VIENNA "VOLKSTHEATER." During the 1952-53 season the "Volkstheater" in Vienna, under its new manager, Leon Epp, intends to revert to a repertory program consisting of Austrian plays and world classics. A number of international or Austrian premieres are being scheduled, among them "Jeanne de Pienne" by Romain Rolland, "Quarantaene" by Marie Gaertner, "Feuerwasser" by Ulrich Becher, "Joan of Lorraine" by Maxwell Anderson, "My Sister Eileen" by Fields and Chodorow, "They Got What They Wanted" by Louis d'Alton, "Michael Servitus" by Josef Luitpold and the dramatization of Franz Kafka's "Trial" by Andre Gide and J.L. Barrault.

"FRIESACHER BURGHOFSPIELE" TO PERFORM GOETHE PLAY THIS YEAR. For two years now the town of Friesach in Carinthia has been the scene of open-air performances of vernacular plays by the acting circle of the Men's Choir Association of Friesach. These performances are known as the "Friesacher Burghofspiele." The play selected for this year is Goethe's "Goetz von Berlichingen" since this work is in the true "Sturm und Drang" manner and reflects the colorful scenes of the late Middle Ages. The play will be performed without change of scenery, the individual scenes being characterized by special light effects, with the ancient citadel of Friesach serving as a natural background. Performances will be given between the end of June and mid-July, as well as during the first weeks in August.

EXCHANGE PERFORMANCES OF VIENNESE AND PROVINCIAL THEATRES. Following the performances of Stefan Zweig's "Jeremias" and of J. Nestroy's comedy "Der Zerrissene" given in Vienna by the Salzburg "Landstheater" and the Graz "Kammerspiele", respectively, the Vienna "Theater in der Josephstadt" will now in turn tour the provinces with the recently revived comedy "Olympia" by Franz Molnar. Performances are scheduled to be given in Baden and Wiener Neustadt, in Lower Austria, and at Graz, in Styria.

The "Theater in Vorarlberg", a company of only ten actors, has given 192 performances during the recent season, playing in 31 different localities, including a few towns in neighboring Switzerland and Germany, and travelling 7,500 miles. Their performances were seen by a total of 66,000 persons. Their most successful play, given forty times, was the farce "Lumpacivagabundus" by Johann Nestroy.

WORLD PREMIERE OF SWEDISH OPERA IN AUSTRIA. The world premiere of the opera "Hervart's Return", by the Swedish composer Kurt Atterberg, took place at the Linz "Landestheater" in Upper Austria on June 14. This three-act opera is an extended version of a two-act opera called "Hervart the Harpist" which was first performed in Stockholm in 1919. Atterberg's original intention had been to write a second "Hervart" opera, but he has instead added a third act to the first opera, thereby giving the story a new and original twist. The performance of "Hervart's Return" in Linz was produced by Oskar Walleck, who had previously produced two of the composer's other operas - "Johannisnacht", in Coburg in 1924, and "Das flammende Land", at the Munich State Opera in 1934.

BADURA-SKODA, AUSTRIAN PIANIST, TO TOUR U.S. IN FALL. Paul Badura-Skoda, the well-known young Austrian pianist, plans to leave at the end of October on a tour of North America. Thirty concerts are planned, which will include recitals as well as appearances as soloist with American orchestras. He is to be heard in New York on February 21, 1953, where he will appear with the New York Philharmonic in Carnegie Hall. The renowned virtuoso is but 24 years of age and has achieved wide acclaim for his technical brilliance and interpretative talent.

FRANZ LITSCHAUER NAMED CONDUCTOR OF VIENNA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA. Franz Litschauer, the well-known conductor who has long headed the Chamber Choir of the Vienna Konzerthausgesellschaft with which he toured most countries of Europe, has accepted the post of chief conductor of the Vienna Symphony's chamber orchestra. This chamber orchestra, founded two years ago and consisting of some 30 musicians, has had no regular conductor. No appointment has yet been made to fill the vacancy at the Chamber Choir of the "Konzerthausgesellschaft".

PROGRAM PREVIEW OF VIENNA KONZERTHAUS FOR 1952 - 53 SEASON. For the 1952 - 53 season the Vienna Concert Hall Society plans seven series of major concerts, each dedicated to an individual composer or period: pre-Classical music; Mozart; Beethoven; music of the Romantic and the Impressionist periods; chamber music by the Austrian composer Franz Schmidt; and, finally, contemporary music under the title "musica viva".

The Beethoven series comprises the "Missa Solemnis", under the baton of Carl Schuricht, all of Beethoven's piano concertos to be played by Wilhelm Kempff and Friederich Gulda, three sonata concerts and an evening of chamber music given by the "Nuovo Quartetto Italiano". The concerts of the "musica viva" series will enable the public to become acquainted with contemporary music at particularly reasonable prices. The program includes Karl Orff's trilogy "Carmina Burana", "Catulli Carmina" and "Triumph d'Aphrodite",

under the direction of Heinrich Hollreiser, and a complete rendering of Paul Hindemith's Opus 36, under the baton of Anton Heiller. The Franz Schmidt (died in 1939) series will include all his chamber music.

VIENNA'S MUSIKVEREIN QUARTET PREPARES NEXT SEASON'S PROGRAM.

The Vienna Musikverein Quartet is now preparing a series of seven concerts which are intended to cover chamber music from Mozart to the present day. On each of the evenings 20th century music will be played as well as classical music. A few typical programs are: Werner Egk's "Versuchung des hl. Antonius" together with Mozart's "Dissonant" Quartet in C major and J.S. Bach's Sextet in "G major"; Arnold Schoenberg's String Sextet "Verklarte Nacht" together with Mozart's Quartet in E flat major and Smetana's "Aus meinem Leben"; Bela Bartok's Fifth String Quartet together with Hugo Wolf's "Italienische Serenade" and Anton Dworak's Piano Quintet in A major.

Two repeat performances will be given of each of these 7 concerts, one for members of the Austrian Trade-Union Council and one for young people of the "Jeunesses Musicales" organization.

The Musikverein-Quartet was formed by the "Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde" (Society of the Friends of Music) after the dissolution of the Schneiderhan Quartet last year, with Walter Barylli (1st violin), Otto Strasser (2nd violin), Richard Krotschak (cello) and Rudolf Streng (viola), all from the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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